Monday, *the* *14th February 1944.*
2nd Kumbham 1119.

The Council met in the Council hall, Ernakulam, at half-past Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (Sir G. T. BOAG, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.) in the chair.

Messrs. L. M. Pylee, V. J. Mathai, K. Ashtamoorthi Nambudiripad, Ephraim Ouseph, H. J. Walmsley, Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, the Joint Secretary to Government (Judicial and Public Works), the Director of Public Instruction and the Director of Food Supplies were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HILL PADDY AREAS—LEASE OF

180. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) how many applications have been received in time for the lease of Hill Paddy Areas;

(*b*) what is the extent applied for on the whole and by each applicant;

(*c*) have these leases been granted?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) 3,118 applications.

(*b*) The area applied for on the whole is 46,947 acres. The number of applications are too many and therefore it is not easy to prepare a consolidated list. The Registers which contain the information are placed on the Council Table.

(*c*) No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know the reason for the delay in granting leases?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Applications were received till the last day of Dhanu and even for some days more anti-dating the applications. I thought it would be better to consolidate all these applications together and finally settle the whole thing. It is being consolidated and the whole area will be leased out as early as possible.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Has the Government considered the urgency of the problem?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Government do realise the seriousness and urgency and it will be done as early as possible.

ARTICLE IN THE "MALABAR MAIL"—POST OF THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

181. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) has the attention of Government been drawn to the news in the "Malabar Mail" from their Ernakulam correspondent, dated 4th Makaram 1119 published in its issue of 5th Makaram 1119 regarding the importation from Madras of one to take up the post of Secretary to Government;

(*b*) are not Government aware that Cochinites are generally against importation of hands from outside to fill up Government posts in the State;

(*c*) is there any truth in the report; if not, will Government be pleased to contradict the news?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No. Government do not consider that this is necessary.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Has the paper mentioned the source from which they got this information?

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